

Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for July 23:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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stateparks.utah.gov

PARK MANAGERS STRESS BOATING AND WATER SAFETY

Salt Lake - Three boating-related deaths and several drownings on Utah's lakes and reservoirs this year have Utah State Parks boating managers continuing to urge life jacket use.

Managers specifically warn about the importance of life jackets while playing on inner tubes, inflatable rafts and mattresses and other toys.

"These flotation toys are not life saving devices," said Utah State Parks Boating Coordinator Dave Harris. "A life jacket should be worn at all times when using or playing with these toys." Harris warns inflatable devices lend to a false sense of security, but are often slippery and unstable.

In fact, when inner tubes, inflatable rafts and mattresses are propelled by a person, current, or are used outside of a swim beach area, they are considered a vessel and are subject to Utah's boating laws and rules, requiring a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket to be on board for each person. Operators and passengers 12 and younger must wear a life jacket at all times. Utah State Parks encourages everyone to wear a life jacket while on or near the water. Nearly 80 percent of those who die in boating accidents are not wearing life jackets.

Much like a seatbelt, a life jacket provides another level of safety. A life jacket allows an injured person to remain afloat or the wearer to assist others who may be in danger.

For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov or call (801) 538-BOAT. Remember, Utah Boaters...WEAR IT!

-utah state parks-